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REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance in view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks. In the Office Action, mailed April 9, 2003, the Examiner objected to the Title, objected to the Abstract, and rejected claims 1-34. By this amendment, the Title and Abstract have been amended. Following entry of these amendments, claims 1-34 will be pending in the application.

Objections to Title and Abstract

In the Office Action, the Examiner objected to the Title for allegedly being non-descriptive of the claimed invention and objected to the Abstract for allegedly using improper language and format. Applicants have amended the Title to better describe the claimed invention and have amended the Abstract to use proper language and format.

Applicants respectfully request entry of these amendments and withdrawal of the objections.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(e)

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-34 as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent Number 6,374,177 to Lee et al., which was filed on September 20, 2000 (hereinafter, "Lee"). Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections.

An anticipation rejection is proper only when a patent applicant has claimed an invention that "was described in ... a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent." 35 U.S.C. §102(e).

The subject application was filed on March 10, 2000. The Lee reference was filed on September 20, 2000 and does not claim the benefit of priority from any earlier application. Therefore, because the filing date of Lee is after the filing date of the Applicants' application, Lee is not a proper 102(e) reference. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-34 are patentably distinct from Lee.

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Conclusion

In view of the foregoing and because all objections and rejections have been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in a condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

CHARGE STATEMENT: The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge fees that may be required relative to this application, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account 03-3975, Order No. 073169-0259729.

Respectfully submitted,
PILLSBURY WINTHROP LLP

By: 

Ross L. Franks, Reg. No. 47,233

For: David A. Jakopin, Reg. No. 32,995

2550 Hanover Street
Palo Alto, California 94034
Tel. No.: (650) 233-4897
Fax No.: (650) 233-4545

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